

*7 March 2006*  
*Tuesday*

## **READINGS**

Psalm 47, Genesis 37:12-24, I Corinthians 1: 20-31 Mark 11:14-28

## **DEVOTION**

From our early days of Sunday school lessons we remember the stories of Joseph. These stories serve such a great way to show how GOD works in mysterious ways. The favorite son of his father was sent on a mission that would save his people when they were about to die for lack of food. The family of Jacob had no other way to survive, and would have perished without hope.

Is that not also the same as GOD sending his favorite son, his only son, to save us? “For GOD so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life,” John 3:16. We understand that Joseph was put in that position to be sold as a slave in Egypt, to be a nobody in this world. In the same way Jesus was only a carpenter's son. Joseph's faithfulness in the Lord was shown to Potiphar, captain of the guard to Pharaoh. Joseph could have been just a slave in that country and never heard of again. But his faith in GOD proved to be his salvation. He was not merely a common slave to man, but a follower of our LORD. He could have remained angry about the treatment he had received from his brothers. But he held no evil thoughts for them.

Joseph forgave his brothers. Think how much more wonderful the fact that JESUS forgave those who crucified him. “Father forgive them ; for they know not what they do,” Luke 23:34. During this time of Lent we can reflect on how God's plan is always on time and the right plan. Maybe from the beginning it does not look that way, from being hated by your brothers or the world, but never by GOD.

We might not be able to save a nation, or as JESUS did, a world. But we can be hand-picked by our Savior like he did to brothers, like Simon and Andrew, or James and John. When asked, they straightway followed him. They didn't question where to go or how much is the pay. “Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.” Mark 1:17

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